

5-5-2018

# You Can See Them from Space: Collecting 4,000 Post-its from Business Writing Students as Minute-Paper Formative Assessment

Heidi Blackburn

University of Nebraska at Omaha, [hblackburn@unomaha.edu](mailto:hblackburn@unomaha.edu)

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## Recommended Citation

Blackburn, Heidi, "You Can See Them from Space: Collecting 4,000 Post-its from Business Writing Students as Minute-Paper Formative Assessment" (2018). *Criss Library Faculty Proceedings & Presentations*. 99.  
<https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/crisslibfacproc/99>

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# **You can see them from space**

COLLECTING 4,000 POST-ITS  
FROM BUSINESS WRITING  
STUDENTS AS MINUTE-PAPER  
FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Omaha

Heidi Blackburn  
hblackburn@unomaha.edu  
@heidiblackburn

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A QUICK

# OVERVIEW

- New course curriculum approved 2015
- Cumulative formal report accounts for approximately 30% of a student's grade
- One 75-minute presentation for every section
- Minute papers are used at the beginning and end of each library presentation

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**FACULTY BUY-IN WAS**

# **EASY**

**BECAUSE THEY WERE  
FIGURING IT OUT TOO**

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## CLASSROOM

# IMPLEMENTATION

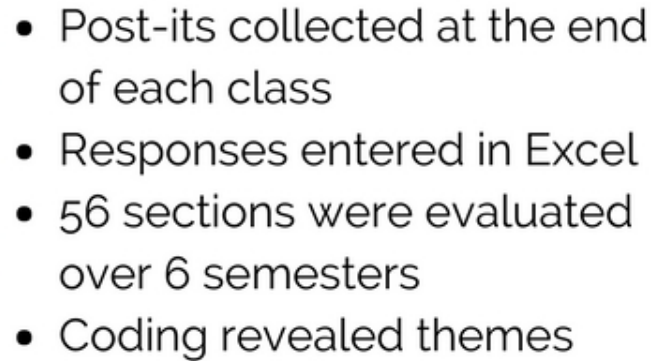
### **BEGINNING OF CLASS:**

- What is one thing about Criss Library or doing research that you want to learn about today?
- What kind of information do you need to find for your topic?

### **END OF CLASS:**

- What is one thing you found useful or helpful today?
- What question(s) do you still have?

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# RESULTS

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	Question	Fall 2015		Spring 2016		Fall 2016		Spring 2017		Fall 2017		Spring 2018		Overall	
2															
3	One item I want to learn	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Avg across Semesters	Percentage
4	APA citations	23.5	86%	7	4%	7	3%	8.5	4%	4	2%	9	5%	10	5%
5	How to use the database/search engines	36	11%	18.5	10%	33.5	13%	29	14%	14	8%	24	13%	23	12%
6	Research strategies: fast/effective/good/keywords	28	20%	23.5	13%	31.5	12%	35.5	17%	18	10%	24	13%	27	14%
7	Best database/Best business database	11.5	8%	27.5	15%	19.5	8%	17	8%	23	13%	15	8%	19	10%
8	Database with...	2	1%	3.5	2%	4.5	2%	6	3%	3	2%	3	2%	4	2%
9	Where do I find...?/Best place to find...	16	11%	25	14%	30	12%	19	9%	21	12%	21	12%	22	12%
10	"Good"/Credible/Reliable information	13.5	9%	11.5	6%	9	4%	14.5	7%	7	4%	10	6%	11	6%
11	Assignment-related/picking a topic	9.5	7%	6	3%	4.5	2%	6.5	3%	3	2%	26	15%	9	5%
12	Crisis Library resources/what Crisis has to offer	23	16%	59	33%	116	45%	78	36%	81	47%	46	26%	67	35%
13	Total	143	100%	181.5	100%	255.5	100%	214	100%	174	100%	176	100%	191	100%
14	Type of info I need	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Avg across Semesters	Percentage
15	Info specific to topic	34	20%	82	30%	71.5	32%	122	45%	163	68%	156	63%	106	44%
16	Statistics	41.5	24%	43	16%	60.5	27%	43	16%	36	15%	41	16%	44	18%
17	Financial	16.5	10%	39	14%	18	8%	28.5	10%	8	3%	8	3%	20	8%
18	Formal Reports	4	2%	7.5	3%	3	1%	5	2%	6	2%	3	1%	5	2%
19	Company info	6	3%	28.5	10%	13	6%	7.5	3%	6	2%	5	2%	11	5%
20	Finding sources/Getting started	7	4%	14.5	5%	3	1%	9.5	3%	5	2%	2	1%	7	3%
21	Generic sources (book, journal article)	16	9%	19.5	7%	11	5%	14.5	5%	9	4%	15	6%	14	6%
22	Interviews	6.5	4%	2.5	1%	2	1%	2	1%	1	0%	1	0%	3	1%
23	Historical	9.5	6%	13	5%	1	0%	3.5	1%	0	0%	3	1%	5	2%
24	Assignment-related info	4.5	3%	4	1%	6	3%	4.5	2%	1	0%	2	1%	4	2%
25	Data	8	5%	6	2%	4	2%	5.5	2%	0	0%	2	1%	4	2%
26	Other	18	10%	15	5%	29	13%	27.5	10%	6	2%	11	4%	18	7%
27	Total	171.5	100%	274.5	100%	222	100%	273	100%	247	100%	249	100%	240	100%
28	One thing I found useful	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Avg across Semesters	Percentage
29	APA	4	2%	2	1%	4.5	2%	2.5	1%	2	1%	3	1%	3	1%
30	Citations	2.5	1%	1	0%	3	1%	3.5	1%	0	0%	0	0%	2	1%
31	Research Guide/LibGuide/Business Website	11.5	6%	20	9%	14	6%	26	10%	9	4%	11	5%	15	7%
32	Database(s)/Statistical/ABI/INFORM/EBSCO/Complete	50.5	34%	54.5	24%	101.5	35%	78.5	29%	61	40%	62	35%	75	32%
33	Search efficiently/Navigation/Keywords	31	21%	28.5	13%	25	9%	21.5	8%	17	8%	18	8%	24	10%
34	Journal/Game Plan Worksheet	17.5	12%	79	35%	71	24%	73	27%	50	25%	61	26%	59	26%
35	Organizing topic	6	4%	16	7%	20	7%	28	10%	20	10%	40	17%	22	9%
36	Library website/resources/librarian	17	11%	12	5%	25	9%	30	11%	13	6%	15	6%	19	8%
37	Other	10.5	7%	10.5	5%	30	10%	7.5	3%	11	5%	2	1%	12	5%
38	Total	150.5	100%	223.5	100%	294	100%	270.5	100%	203	100%	232	100%	229	100%
39	Questions I still have	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Responses Avg	Percentage	Avg across Semesters	Percentage
40	None	9.5	22%	74	52%	95.5	62%	118	68%	115	68%	117	67%	74	57%
41	Database	10.5	24%	29	21%	12	8%	13.5	8%	11	7%	15	9%	16	13%
42	Citations	6.5	15%	11	8%	6.5	4%	5	3%	5	3%	8	5%	7	6%
43	Credible sources/Credible source for...	7	16%	8	6%	3.5	2%	8.5	5%	1	1%	4	2%	7	5%
44	Assignment-related	2.5	6%	8	6%	11	7%	8	4%	1	1%	15	9%	7	6%
45	Other	7.5	17%	11	8%	26.5	17%	26.5	15%	35	21%	16	9%	18	14%
46	Total	43.5	100%	141	100%	155	100%	179.5	100%	168	100%	175	100%	130	100%

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# RESULTS

*Confident but  
clueless :)*

## PROMPT 1

I don't know what library resources and services are available to me in general as a student or where I should look for info.

## PROMPT 2

I have exactly one specific fact I need to find for my topic and I probably need some statistics.

## PROMPT 3

I like having time to brainstorm with partners and the librarian telling me which databases to use for my topic.

## PROMPT 4

I'll need more help doing advanced database searching.



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## INSTRUCTOR & LIBRARIAN **PARTNERSHIP**

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The number of students replying "no questions" steadily increased semester-to-semester from 22% (2015) to 66% (2018).

This suggests when the librarian and instructor work together using minute slips to assess student learning over time, **students have fewer questions** about library resources and assignment expectations.

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## CHANGES TO CURRICULUM

# RESEARCH

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- Increased student buy-in and participation in class with librarian
- Increased positive student attitudes about completing research
- Increased confidence in student abilities to begin assignment
- Reduced number of questions about assignment asked of librarian (that were really for instructor)
- Refined activities to enhance active-learning over several semesters
- Refined research resources over several semesters

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## IMPLEMENTATION IN YOUR OWN **CLASSROOM**

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- Gauge student self-reported skills in the beginning
- Understand if student expectations for the class match those of the librarian
- Clarify course concepts at the end of the class
- Discover what topics remain unclear before leaving
- Collect feedback on new classroom activities

# CONCLUSIONS

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The use of Post-it minute-papers greatly improved relationships between students, instructors, and the librarian. This just-in-time model can assess student skills or attitudes, or new teaching methods, creating a more agile classroom experience.

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# THANK YOU!

Heidi Blackburn  
hblackburn@unomaha.edu  
@heidiblackburn